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1989/08/03

MEMORANDUM

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DATE: August 3, 1989

TO: ECON - Mr. Robert Williams

FROM: ADM/C - Dorothy N. Sampas *(initials)*

SUBJECT: Code I Rudman Briefing

The Administrative Section has had no problems gaining access to its normal contacts, save for a 2 to 3 week period in June when all Chinese officialdom was studying Deng's speech. When we do meet, the PRC side seems to be willing to reach mutually satisfactory agreements, such as recently allowing the long-promised upgrade of two very small apartments for larger units to take effect. The PRC is also paying off all personal and official claims for property damaged by gunfire as soon as possible. Our contacts have not bothered to give us political harangues when we meet.

However, the Chinese bureaucracy which administers/controls foreign diplomats is clearly trying to harrass the Voice of America. Although it was many months late in billing us (or accepting our check) on other apartments, when the rental check from Bangkok to pay for VOA's two apartments arrived late, the Housing Services Corporation threatened to evict the Voice. When the Embassy concentrated so intensively on evacuations, budget preparations and assistance to consulates that it was overdue on a Voice telephone bill, the responsible authorities threatened to cut telephone service. Now that we see what the Chinese harrassment is trying to do to the Voice, we shall watch out over all Voice bills and payments with particular care, - and shall, of course, continue to ignore all Chinese Administrative threats against its operations.

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